

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4102

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 11998

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT- JULY 2- JULY 4

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
EMBASSY AS OF 1800 JULY 4.

SUMMARY:

1. THE NEWLY UN- BLOCKED ICCS PLENARY MET TWICE, JULY 2 AND 3, TO BEGIN PROCESSING THE BACK- LOGGED AGENDA ITEMS AND TO CONSIDER A FINANCIAL REPORT ATTESTING THE POOR STATE OF CURRENT ICCS FINANCES. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRG SEEKING THE RETURN OF THE STILL MISSING CANDEL OFFICERS.
2. PRGDEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM TPJMC HQ IN SAIGON HAVE DEPLOYED TO HUE AND DANANG.
3. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED GENERALLY LOW WITH THE USUAL EXCEPTIONS OF KONTUM AND CHUONG THIEN. RVNAF AIRSTRIKES AND ARTILLERY WERE ESPECIALLY HEAVY WEST OF KONTUM CITY ON JULY 3. VNAF REPORTEDLY BOMBED PHUNG HOANG II (DAT TO) AIRSTRIKES IN PRG- HELD TERRITORY NEW OF KONTUM CITY ON JULY 2 WITH A TOTAL OF 14 AIRPLANES.
4. DANANG REPORTS THAT RVNAF IS APPARENTLY PLANNING AN OPERATION TO CLEAR THE VC FROM WESTERN SON TINH, THE LARGEST AREA OF THE LOW- LANDS STILL HELD BY THE COMMUNISTS. VC/ NVA RESISTANCE IS EXPECTED TO BE STIFF. IN ADDITION TO THE CONTINUING RVNAF PUSH WEST OF KONTUM, SECTOR FORCES IN QUANG DUC ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY GOING OVER TO THE OFFENSIVE IN AN AREA LONG CEDED TACTICALLY TO THE COMMUNISTS. MR 3 REPORTS THAT CLASHES CONTINUE IN THE GVN OPERATION TO OPEN ROUTE 2 BETWEEN PHUOC TUY AND LONG KHANH PROVINCES. MR 4 HAS ABOLISHED THE PREVIOUS SPECIAL AREA BETWEEN BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU, BUT MG NGHI, CORPS COMMANDER HAS ORDERED THE BA XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN PARTS OF BAC LIEU.

PART I: ICCS

1. 69 TH PLENARY SESSION UNDER HUNGDEL CHAIRMANSHIP TOOK PLACE JULY 2 AND WAS CHARACTERIZED BY CANDEL SOURCES AS BUSINESS- LIKE WITH GOOD ATMOSPHERE AND NO PROCEDURAL HASSLES. BECAUSE OF AGENDA BACKLOG, HUNGDEL PROPOSED FORMATION OF SPECIAL CHIP COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE BACKLOGGED ITEMS SEPARATING ROUTINE MATTERS FROM CONTROVERSIAL
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ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. HIP DELS SUPPORTED HUNGDEL PROPOSAL WHILE CANDEL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BUT WANTED FURTHER TIME TO STUDY DETAILS. ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS LANFBD IN ROUTINE FASHION WITH ICCS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT TO INVESTIGATE FOUR PRG AND TWO GVN COMPLAINTS OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT WAS PRESENTED ATTESTING TO POOR CURRENT STATE OF ICCS FINANCES. ICCS HAS ONLY \$831,920 IN THE BANK WITH LARGE OUTSTANDING BILLS TO FEC AND AIR AMERICA PLUS A NUMBER OF SMALLER INVOICES. ICCS HAS NOT PAID ITS MEMBERS JUNE PER DIEM SINCE IT WAS AGREED TO HONOR LOCAL CONTRACTS AND PAY LOCAL STAFF BEFORE PAYING PER DIEM. IT WAS AGREED TO WRITE LETTERS TO PRG AND DRV REQUESTING THEY PAY REMAINDER OF SECOND SUPPORT CONTRIBUTION OF 3 MILLION KPEP# FS# FRANCS EACH. ICCS ALSO AGREED TO APPROACH U. S.

EMBASSY FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OVER CANDEL OBJECTIONS.
FINAL DISCUSSION DEALT WITH MISSING CANADIANS AS
REPORTED SEPTEL.

3. THE 70 TH PLENARY SESSION TOOK PLACE ON JULY 3. THE PROBLEM OF THE MISSING CANADIANS, A NON AGENDA ITEM, TOOK UP FIRST HOUR AND HALF OF THIS FOUR HOUR LONG SESSION. THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO TWO SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS. HUNGDEL CHAIRMAN GAVE AN INFORMAL REPORT ON HIS MEETING WITH PRG REPS REGARDING THE MISSING CANADIANS. PRG AGREED TO COOPERATE IN PRINCIPLE BUT CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT CANDEL MUST ADMIT THAT ITS OFFICERS WERE NOT ON ICCS BUSINESS BUT ON A PERSONAL JUNKET AND THAT PRG HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DISAPPEARANCE. PLENARY CONSIDERED THIS CONDITION UNACCEPTABLE AND AGREED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF ICCS MUST BE CONSIDERED ON DUTY AT ALL TIMES. AFTER PROTRACTED DISCUSSION IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND A LETTER TO THE TPJMC ASKING FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN LOCATING THE TWO MISSING CANADIANS. THE LETTER WAS TYPED AND DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY. A SEPARATE MEETING WITH PRG AND GVN DELEGATES TO TPJMC WAS ARRANGED FOR JULY 4. IT WAS AGREED THAT HUNGDEL CHAIRMAN, HIS CHIEF MILITARY DELEGATE AND THE CHIEF CANDEL MILITARY DELEGATE WOULD ATTEND THE MEETING.

4. AFTER MUCH ARGUMENT OVER THE WORDING, THE RECORD OF THE 66 TH PLENARY WAS ACCEPTED, STATING THAT SINCE THE DELEGATIONS COULD NOT AGREE ON FORWARDING REPORTS TO THE TPJMC THE CHAIRMAN FORWARDS THEM UNDER ARTICLE 18 C- 3 D OF THE PROTOCOL.
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5. THE PLENARY THEN APPROVED THE HUNGDEL PROPOSAL ON BACKLOGGED ITEMS (ABOVE). THE DEPUTY CHIEF AND ONE OTHER OFFICER FROM EACH CHIP DEL WILL MEET AS AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SCREEN BACKLOGGED ITEMS ON JULY 4/5. THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 6.

6. THE GIO LINH POE TEAM MET WITH PRG REPS ON JULY 3 TO DISCUSS THE TEAM' S MOVE INTO THE GIO LINH SITE. THE ONLY CHANGE ON THE PRG POSITION WAS PERMISSION TO HAVE TWO TRANSMITTERS AT THE SITE. PRG STILL INSISTS A 24- HOURS NOTICE FOR ANY MOVEMENT FROM THE SITE AND ONLY ONE RESUPPLY PER WEEK. THIS WAS CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE BY THE ICCS TEAM. THE NEXT MEETING ON THE SUBJECT WITH PRG IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11.

NOTE BY OC/ T: # GARBLED TEXT AS RECEIVED, WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST

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LIMDIS

PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

1. FOUR PRGDEL LIAISON OFFICERS ARRIVED IN HUE ON JULY 3 AND TWO IN DANANG ON JULY 3 AS SCHEDULED. THESE OFFICERS WILL TRAVEL TO COMMUNIST- CONTROLLED SITES TO PICK UP LOCAL PRG CADRE AND TO MAKE FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS ON DEPLOYMENT. THE TRAVEL OF A LIAISON TEAM TO PLEIKU WAS CANCELLED BY THE PRGDEL AT THE LAST MINUTE
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ON JULY 3. (SEPTELS).

2. THE PRGDEL HAS RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL ON THE RELEASE OF PW' S AND DETAINEES, NOW OFFERING TO RELEASE 410 MILITARY PW' S AND 252 CIVILIAN DETAINEES BETWEEN JULY 5 AND 10. THE ONLY REMAINING ARGUMENT CONCERNS THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED RELEASE OF PRISONERS BY THE GVN AND GUARANTEES OF SAFETY FOR ICCS OBSERVERS.
(SEPTELS).

PART III: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT)

1. LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WAS MADE AT JULY 3 FPJMT MEETING. MAJORITY OF MEETING WAS TAKEN UP WITH THE CONTINUING DISCUSSION

OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT MINUTE OF AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 8(B) OF THE CEASE- FIRE AGREEMENT. ALL DELEGATIONS AGREED WITH THE WORDING OF THE U. S. DRAFT MINUTE OF AGREEMENT ON THOSE POINTS ON WHICH THERE HAS BEEN GENERAL AGREEMENT FROM THE BEGINNING. HOWEVER THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS MAINTAINED THEIR POSITIONS ANNOUNCED AT THE JUNE 28 MEETING THAT THEY WOULD NOT SIGN A PARTIAL MINUTE OF AGREEMENT.

2. DISCUSSION THEN CENTERED ON THE CURRENT STUMBLING BLOCK; I. E. PRG/ DRV INSISTENCE THAT THE GVN MUST ALLOW REMAINS TO STAY IN GVN TERRITORY AND MUST ENSURE PERMANENT MAINTENANCE OF THE GRAVES INCLUDING THE BUILDING OF TOMBS, AS OPPOSED TO GVN INSISTANCE THAT THE REMAINS MUST BE REPATRIATED. USDEL OFFERED A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD CALL ON THE PARTIES TO MAINTAIN GRAVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL CUSTOMS PENDING FPJMT AGREEMENT ON THE EVENTUAL DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINS. WHILE THE GVN DELEGATION FAVORED THE COMPROMISE, THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS, BUT DID NOT REJECT THE PROPOSAL.

3. REMAINDER OF MEETING CONCERNED A PRG DELEGATION PROPOSAL THAT A WEEKLY SAIGON- LOC NINH FPJMT LIAISON FLIGHT BE ESTABLISHED. RVN DELEGATION TOOK POSITION THAT SUCH A FLIGHT WOULD BE AN UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF EFFORT SINCE RVN WILLING TO PROVIDE TPJMC LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH. DISCUSSION OF THESE TWO SUBJECTS WILL BE CONTINUED AT THE NEXT FPJMT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 5.

4. A JCRC SPECIALIST TEAM IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN INVESTIGATING AN UNIDENTIFIED CRASHED UH-1 IN WESTERN KHANH HOA PROVINCE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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JULY 5. ANOTHER JCRC INVESTIGATION IN THE HAI VAN PASS AREA NORTHWEST OF DANANG TOOK PLACE OVER THE PAST WEEKEND WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS AS THE CRASHED AIRCRAFT WAS FOUND TO BE AN AIR VIETNAM DC-3 PREVIOUSLY INVESTIGATED BY GVN AUTHORITIES.

PART IV: MR 1

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD JULY 2-3 DROPPED SLIGHTLY. A MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED ON JULY 1 WHEN A HANDGRENADE EXPLODED IN A THEATER 5 KM NE OF QUANG NGAI CITY, KILLING A CHILD AND WOUNDING 23 OTHERS, INCLUDING FOUR MILITARY. AFTER INVESTIGATION LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONFIRMED THAT THE INCIDENT WAS COMMUNIST INITIATED.

2. STATISTICS FOR THE TWO- DAY PERIOD ARE AS FOLLOWS, BROKEN OUT ACCORDING TO THE DAY THEY WERE BRIEFED AT I CORPS HEADQUARTERS:
JULY 3: EIGHT CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED; SEVEN ABF AND ONE HARASSMENT. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY - NINE KIA, 31 WIA; ENEMY - NINE KIA, ONE RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 347 ROUNDS, ALL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.
JULY 4: SIX CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED; ONE GROUND ATTACK, THREE ABF AND TWO HARASSMENTS. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY - FOUR

KIA, 14 WIA; ENEMY - FIVE KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 131 ROUNDS
ALL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.

3. LAST WEEK QUANG NGAI PROVINCE CHIEF COL. NGO VAN LOI MENTIONED
TO POLOFF THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED PLANS FOR AN OPERATION IN WESTERN
SON TINH, THE LARGEST SINGLE LOWLAND AREA STILL UNDER UNCONTESTED
PRG CONTROL WITH BG TRAN VAN NHUT, CG OF 2 ND DIV. ONE BATTALION
OF THE 2 ND HAS NOW MOVED TO AN OUTPOST IN THAT AREA. ON JULY 2
BGNHUT VISITED THE OUTPOST TO OUTLINE PLANS FOR AN OPERATION.
ADDITIONAL ARVN OR RF UNITS ARE TO BE ADDED AT A LATER DATE. NHUT
HAS ALSO REQUESTED 13 PF PLATOONS TO DEFEND THE OUTPOST ITSELF,
FREEING ARVN TROOPS FOR MOBILE OPERATIONS. AT PRESENT THERE ARE
REPORTEDLY THREE MAIN FORCE ENEMY BATTALIONS IN THIS AREA AND INT-
ELLIGENCE SOURCES INDICATE THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO HOLD THE
AREA AT ALL COST. TWO OTHER ENEMY BATTALIONS ARE LOCATED ACROSS
THE TRA KHUC RIVER IN TU NGHIA DISTRICT. ANY SERIOUS GVN EFFORT TO
REGAIN CONTROL OF THE AREA CAN BE EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER STIFF
ENEMY RESISTANCE.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4104

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

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FWHLTC TRUONG DANG LIEM, CO OF 4 TH REGT, 2 ND DIV TOLD POLOFF QUANG NGAI THAT THE ENEMY HAD REDUCED HIS POTENTIAL TO THE PORT TOWN OF SA HUYNH. THREE NVA REGIMENTS THAT WERE STATIONED NEAR SA HUYNH WITHDREW FROM THEIR POSITIONS LAST WEEK: THE 52 ND REGT, 2 ND NVA DIV, HAS WITHDRAWN SOME 30 KM WEST INTO BA TO DISTRICT; THE 141 ST REGT, 2 ND NVA DIV, HAS MOVED ABOUT 10 KM FURTHER WEST; AND THE 12 TH REGT, 3 RD NVA DIV, FORMERLY SIX KM SW OF SA HUYNH (ACROSS THE BOR-
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DER IN BINH DINH PROVINCE) HAS MOVED FURTHER SOUTH. POLOFF RELATES THAT LIEM WAS RELUCTANT TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER THE WITHDRAWAL MIGHT BE INDICATIVE OF COMMUNIST WILLINGNESS TO ABIDE BY THE JUNE 15 CEASEFIRE, SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE THE PURPOSE IS MERELY REFITTING AND RETRAINING.

5. LTC LIEM ALSO INFORMED POLOFF QUANG NGAI THAT VNAF RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS INDICATE WORK IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED ON A SECTION OF ROAD LINKING THE COMMUNIST- HELD, OLD BA TO DISTRICT TOWN WITH BINH DINH PROVINCE. A SECOND ROUTE RUNS EAST TOWARD SA HUYNH AND THEN SOUTH PARALLELING QL 1 ABOUT FIVE KM TO THE WEST. TWO NEW ROADS ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION LINKING THIS ROUTE WITH THE RECONSTRUCTED PROVINCIAL ROUTE 515 WHICH RUNS NORTH TO THE BORDER BETWEEN MO DUC AND E BQC PHO DISTRICTS. CONSCRIPTED LABOR CREWS PERFORM MOST OF THE CON-
STRUCTION ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME ROAD GRADING MACHINERY.

6. POLICE SOURCES HAVE INFORMED PRRO QUANG NAM OF A COMMUNIST RE-SUPPLY ROUTE COMING OUT OF HOI AN TOWN THROUGH CAM KIM VILLAGE, HIEU NHON DISTRICT, DOWN RIVER TO THE CAU LAU BRIDGE. SOME 30,000 KILOS OF RICE ARE REPORTEDLY BEING CARRIED OVER THIS ROUTE MONTHLY.

PART V: MR 2

1. MOST OF MR 2 WAS CALM OVER THE PAST 48 HOUR PERIOD; THERE WAS A TOTAL OF ONLY 23 INCIDENTS, CONCENTRATED TYPICALLY IN KONTUM. INCIDENTS INCLUDED 11 ENEMY GROUND ASSAULTS, SIX ABF, FIVE MININGS AND ONE RF PATROL THAT DISCOVERED 12 VC/ NVA BODIES AND SEVERAL WEAPONS. VNAF FLEW 47 " TRAINING AND REHEARSAL " MISSIONS DURING THE PERIOD, 45 IN KONTUM AND TWO IN BINH DINH. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE: VC/ NVA - 42 KIA, ONE CAPTURED; RVNAF - SEVEN KIA, 32 WIA, 11 MIA (CONGEN COMMENT: KONTUM POLOFF CAUTIONS THAT FOR SECURITY OR OTHER REASONS, REPORTS OF FRIENDLY CASUALTIES IN KONTUM ARE PROBABLY UNDERSTATED CONSIDERABLY. END SUMMARY).

2. POLOFF REPORTS THAT AIRSTRIKES AND ARTILLERY WEST OF KONTUN CITY

WERE PARTICULARLY HEAVY JULY 3. ONE ARVN UNIT TO THE NE OF TRUNG NGHIA CAPTURED A LOCAL POSITION AND COUNTED 30 BODIES PLUS SEVERAL DESTROYED MORTAR POSITIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT

MOVEMENT OF MAJOR FORCES IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF TRUNG NGHIA. EAST OF TRUNG NGHIA, ACTION WAS APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT LESS INTENSE THAN IT
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HAS BEEN IN RECENT DAYS, AND POLOFF REPORTS THERE IS SPECULATION AT 23 RD DIV HQ THAT THE ENEMY MAY HAVE WITHDRAWN MANY OF THEIR FORCES, BUT POLOFF BELIEVES THIS IS ONLY WISHFUL THINKING.

3. POLOFF REPORTS THAT THERE WERE 14 AIRPLANES INVOLVED IN THE JULY 2 AIR STRIKE AGAINST PHUNG HOANG II (DAK TO) AIRSTRIP. MAJ JONES OF PLEIKU CANDEL SAID IN A JULY 4 CONVERSATION THAT ON THAT DAY THE CANADIANS AT BEN HET SAW A VNAF AIRPLANE BUZZ THE BEN HET STRIP AND THEN HEARD EXPLOSION, SAW SMOKE IN THE SKY AND HEARD A THUD LIKE THE CRASH OF AN AIRPLANE. CANADIANS BELIEVE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN, BUT DID NOT ACTUALLY SEE CRASH AND HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED BY THE PRG TO LEAVE THE COMPOUND AND MAKE OBSERVATION. CANADIANS CONJECTURE THAT PRG RELUCTANCE TO ALLOW OBSERVATION IS DUE TO PRESENCE OF PRG SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA.

4. BG CAM, 23 RD DIV CG, ON JULY 4 TOLD POLOFF HE RECEIVED A HIGHLY AGITATED LETTER FROM PRG REFERRING TO BOMBING OF AIRSTRIP AND STATING THEY PLANNED TO TAKE " APPROPRIATE ACTION" IN REPLY. CAM HAS NO BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, BUT CLAIMED NOT TO CARE AS THE ACT ITSELF WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RESULTS. HE INDICATED THAT RVNAF HAVE NO PRESENT INTENTIONS TO BOMB PHUNG HOANG II AGAIN OR OTHER PRG- CONTROLLED AIRFIELDS, BUT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO UNDERTAKE SUCH ACTIONS AGAIN IF FUTURE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED.

5. MR 2 COMMANDER, MG TOAN, TOLD POLOFF AT 4 TH OF JULY CELEBRATION THAT HE THOUGHT THE ENEMY PURPOSE IN HOLDING SO TENACIOUSLY TO THE AREA WEST OF KONTUM CITY WAS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND MORALE. SECONDARILY, THE VILLAGES WOULD ALSO HAVE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE IN THE EVENT OF AN ENEMY DECISION TO TAKE KONTUM; TOAN SEEMED TO THINK THIS IS A REAL POSSIBILITY SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE. TOAN NOTED THAT THERE IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT MORALE CONSIDERATION INVOLVED FROM THE RVNAF POINT OF VIEW, REQUIRING THAT THE VILLAGES BE RETAKEN. TOAN SAID HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT THIEU WAS PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT TO KONTUM AND SATISFIED WITH THE RVNAF DEFENSE AND PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE. " WE WILL RETAKE THE VILLAGES," TOAN SAID.

6. SEVERAL CLASHES REPORTED OVER LAST TEN DAYS OR SO BETWEEN RF AND ENEMY FORCES IN NORTHER KIENTHUC DISTRICT, QUANG DUC, INDICATE POSSIBLE GVN EFFORT TO MOVE BACK INTO " OLD BU PRANG" AREA WHICH WAS UNOFFICIALLY CEDED TO THE COMMUNISTS LONG AGO. RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATING INCREASED ENEMY CONSTRUCTION THERE MAY HAVE GOADED
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THE QUANG DUC PROVINCE CHIEF INTO LAUNCHING A LIMITED OFFENSIVE.

7. THE PRG DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TRUCE REGION III DID

NOT APPEAR (ABOVE). POLOFF KONTUM SPECULATES THAT ABSENCE MAY BE RELATED TO JULY 2 BOMBING OF PHUNG HOANG II AIRSTRUP BY VNAF. PRIOR TO AIRSTRIKE, PROV REP PLEIKU REPORTED THAT COL TRAN, GVN REP TO TPJMC, SAID HE ALREADY HAD HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PRG ON THEIR DEMANDS WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD RELATE TO FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO POPULATION, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, PERSONAL SECURITY OF DELEGATES, ETC. TRAN BELIEVED AGREEMENT WOULD BE ACHIEVED, WHICH IMPLIES GVN MAY BE PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. PRGDEL TRAVEL PLANS WERE CONFIRMED BY CANDEL AND HUNGDEL PLEIKU BEFORE BOMBING OF PRG- HELD AIRSTRIP, BUT NOW PLANS SEEM SOME DOUBTFUL. CANDEL WAS ALREADY SKEPTICAL AS HE NOTED THAT, ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, PLANS FOR SETTING UP DISCUSSIONS ALWAYS BROKE DOWN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 SAIGON 11998

8. IF AND WHEN PRGDEL REACHES PLEIKU, IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PROCEED

TO DUC CO BY HELICOPTER; MG TOAN SAID JULY 4 THAT HE HAD VETOED SUCH

A PLAN BECAUSE THE PRG MIGHT HOLD THE CHOPPERS HOSTAGE AND HE WOULD THEN HAVE NO ONE TO WHOM HE COULD PROTEST. INSTEAD, TOAN SAID, THE PRG COULD GO BETWEEN PLEIKU CITY AND DUC CO BY ROAD.

PART VI: MR 3
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1. MR 3 G-2 REPORTS FEW MILITARY CLASHES DURING 48 HOURS ENDING 0800 JULY 4. THERE WERE 13 CLASHES REPORTED DURING FIRST 24 HOURS AND SIX DURING LAST, FOR A TOTAL OF 19; THREE ABF, EIGHT GROUND ATTACKS, SEVEN MININGS AND ONE GROUND- AIR INCIDENT. RVNAF LOSSES WERE FIVE KIA, 15 WIA; KNOWN COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE NINE KIA, ONE CAPTURED.

2. CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF TOC LOG ENTRIES INDICATES THAT A NUMBER OF CLASHES WERE PROBABLY RVNAF INITIATED. THREE CLASHES REPORTED IN HAU NGHIA ON JULY 3, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE ALLEGEDLY LIGHT VC GROUND ATTACKS ON ONE PF PLATOON IN THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AROUND DUC NUE DISTRICT SEAT (ONLY RESULT WAS ONE VC KIA). IN GIA DINH PROVINCE RF ELEMENTS CONDUCTING SEARCHES ON JULY 2 CAPTURED A MORTAR BARREL, DESTROYED A TUNNEL, CAPTURED A MINE, WIRE AND TIME FUSE AND ACTIVATED TWO MORE MINES KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING TWO. CLASHES CONTINUE TO OCCUR ALONG INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 2 BETWEEN DUC THANH, PHUOC TUY AND XUAN LOC, LONG KHANH.

3. THERE IS NO NEW INFORMATION ON PROSPECTS FOR RELEASE OF ICCS XUAN LOC CANDELS MISSING AND BELIEVED HELD BY PRG IN ONG QUE PLANTATION, LONG KHANH. CANDELS BELIEVE THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHERE PRG IS HOLDING CANDELS, BUT ARE STILL BENT ON FREEING THEM THROUGH DIPLOMACY. BREGADIER MCALPINE' S EARLY MORNING JULY 2 TRIP TO ICCS V HQ IN BIEN HOA WAS TO RESTRAIN CANDEL V CHIEF, COL MORROW FROM CARRYING OUT PLAN HE HAD COOKED UP WITH ARVN TO TAKE THREE HELICOPTERS AND SOME ARVN RANGERS INTO PLANTATION ON A LIGHTNING SAR OPERATION AT DAWN JULY 2.

4. MR 3 CG, LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN JULY 3 THAT LTC TRANG CONG NGHIEP PHU KHUONG DISTRICT CHIEF, TAY NINH, HAS BEEN RELIEVED FOR " TRADING WITH THE ENEMY." MEANWHILE LARGE SCALE POLICE OPERATIONS AGAINST SUCH TRADING IN TAY NINH HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE JUNE 7. AS OF JUNE 28, POLICE HAD SEIZED MATERIALS WITH A TOTAL VALUE ESTIMATED AT 3,400,000 PIASTERS AND DETAINED 337 " ILLEGAL TRANSPORTERS." (CONGEN COMMENT: MOST OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF POLICE ACTIVITY HAS SUCCEEDED TEMPORARILY IN KEEPING AVERAGE VIETNAMESE FROM TRADING WITH THE COMMUNISTS. UNTIL NGHIEP' S REMOVAL, CERTAIN PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS HAD CONTINUED TO TRADE; HIS REMOVAL MAY SIGNAL THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE GVN' S DETERMINATION TO END THIS TRADE. NEVERTHELESS, SO LONG AS THE TAY NINH ECONOMY IS DEPRESSED AND THE COMMUNISTS OFFER HIGH PRICES FOR READILY AVAILABLE
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COMMODITIES, SOME PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO RUN RISKS TO

SUPPLY THEM. MOREOVER, THE PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF POLICE OPERATIONS CANNOT BE SUSTAINED INDEFINITELY. END COMMENT.)

PART VII: MR 4

1. MR 4 REPORTED ONLY 23 ALLEGED VC INCIDENTS JULY 3; THREE GROUND ATTACKS, 12 AFB, SEVEN HARASSMENTS AND ONE AMBUSH; CHOUNG THIEN WAS MOST ACTIVE. CASUALTIES WERE COMPARATIVELY HIGH FOR SO FEW INCIDENTS WITH RVNAF REPORTING 22 KIA, 86 WIA AND EIGHT MIA AND CLAIMING 27 COMMUNISTS KIA AND 16 CAPTURED.

2. A COMPANY- SIZED VC FORCE OVERRAN A PF OUTPOST DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 2 IN LONG PHU DISTRICT, BA XUYEN. THREE PF WERE KIA, THREE WIA AND TWO MIA. THE ATTACKING FORCE ARRIVED FROM AND LATER RETIRED TO DUNG ISLAND IN THE BASSAC RIVER, ABOUT 3 1/2 KM FROM THE OUTPOST. THE MISSING PF AND THE FACT THAT THE VC HAD TO BYPASS TWO OTHER OUTPOSTS TO REACH THEIR TARGET SUGGESTS PF BETRAYAL MAY HAVE AIDED THE ENEMY.

3. MR 4 COMMANDER, MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI HAS ORDERED THE DISMANTLING OF THE SPECIAL INERPROVINCIAL TACTICAL ZONE (SITZ) CREATED APRIL 10 TO COVER PARTS OF BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU PROVINCES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE MY THANH RIVER. NGHI GAVE THE BA XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF, COL LIEU QUANG NGHIA THEJOB OF CLEARING THE VC FROM THE AREA IN 30 DAYS. THREE MONTHS LATER, NGHIA HAS BEEN LARGELY SUCCESSFUL ON THE BA XUYEN SIDE OF THE RIVER, BUT LESS SO ON THE BAC LIEU SIDE. NGHI HAS TOLD NGHIA, WHO HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO TAKE HIS FORCES OUTSIDE HIS OWN PROVINCE, TO RUN PERIODIC OPERATIONS IN THE OLD SITZ, INCLUDING AREAS OF BAC LIEU.

4. ALTHOUGH FIGHTING HAS EBBED IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE DURING CEASEFIRE II, THE VC CONTINUE TO REORGANIZE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR LOCAL FORCES. ACCORDING TO SECTOR S-2, VC SOC TRANG AND VC CA MAU PROVINCES RECENTLY

WERE ORDERED TO UPGRADE ALL DISTRICT LOCAL FORCE (DLF) COMPANIES TO BATTALION- SIZED UNITS. IN GVN BAC LIEU (DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO VC PROVINCES), THE VC HAVE RAISED FOUR AND POSSIBLY FIVE NEW DLF COMPANIES, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO UPGRADE ANY COMPANIES TO BATTALION SIZE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GUESS VC STRENGTH IN BAC LIEU, BECAUSE UNITS INFILTRATE EASILY IN AND OUT OF NEIGHBORING PROVINCES. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AMERICAN PROV REP ESTIMATES THERE ARE ABOUT 650 LOCAL VC NOW OPERATING IN THE PROVINCE, IN ADDITION TO THE NEW DLF COMPANIES OF UNDETERMINED SIZE. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON11998
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730768/abqcehrk.tel
Line Count: 591
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <18-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status:
Subject: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT- JULY 2- JULY 4
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS, MILI, PINT
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
JAKARTA
OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH
VIENTIANE
WARSAW

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BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
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CINCPAC
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COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
FPJMT

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005